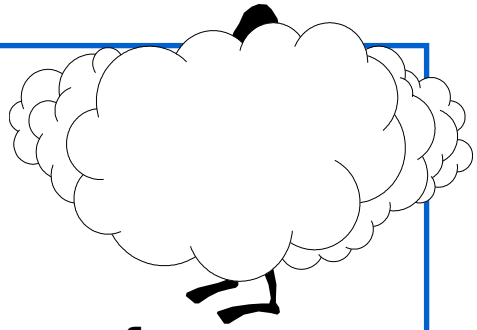
Strategic Environmental Assessment

”SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed policy, plan or programme initiative in order to ensure they are fully included and appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision making on par with economic and social consideration”

(Sadler och Verheem 1996)

Background

- **EU-directive about Environmental assessment of certain plans and programs**
  - 2001/42/EG2001
- **Defence exemption in the directive, but…..**
  - The Swedish Armed Forces (SAF) is an important actor in society
  - Governmental assignment to SAF in 2003 to use SEA
- **SEA has previously been used in the defence sector**
  - USA, Can, UK are some examples



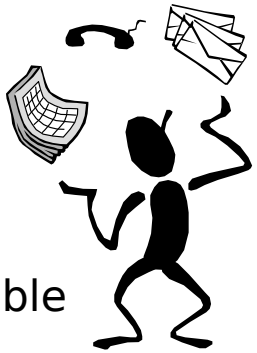
What is a SEA?

- **Procedure to assess environmental consequences of plans, programmes and policies**
- **Should be on a central level and long-tern**
- **Useful tool to allocate planning resources effectively, e.g. economical consequences**
- **Different functions**
  - Raise the awareness about environmental questions in the process
  - Early identify important environmental aspects
  - Possibility to choose between different alternatives
  - Control station to make sure that critical levels etc. are fulfilled

The different kind of steps in a SEA

- What are the possible direct and indirect effects from the decision?
- How do these effects affect the environment?
- What kind of effect and what is the extent of it?
- Can the possible negative effects be obstructed?
- What is the final effects from the decision after the possibilities to obstruct the negative effects have been included?

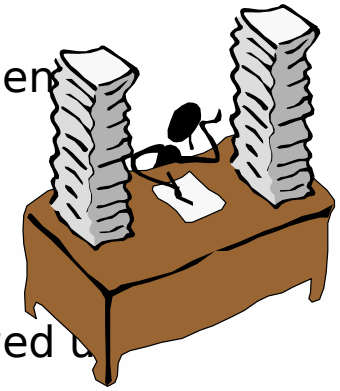
The method



- **Consultation**
  - gather knowledge
  - inform about the coming decision and also the possible environmental effects
  - get reactions from the public and experts
- **Mapping**
  - needs, problems and goals for the plan
- **Alternatives**
  - what alternatives should be examined
  - delimitation
- **Analyses**
  - environmental effects from different alternatives

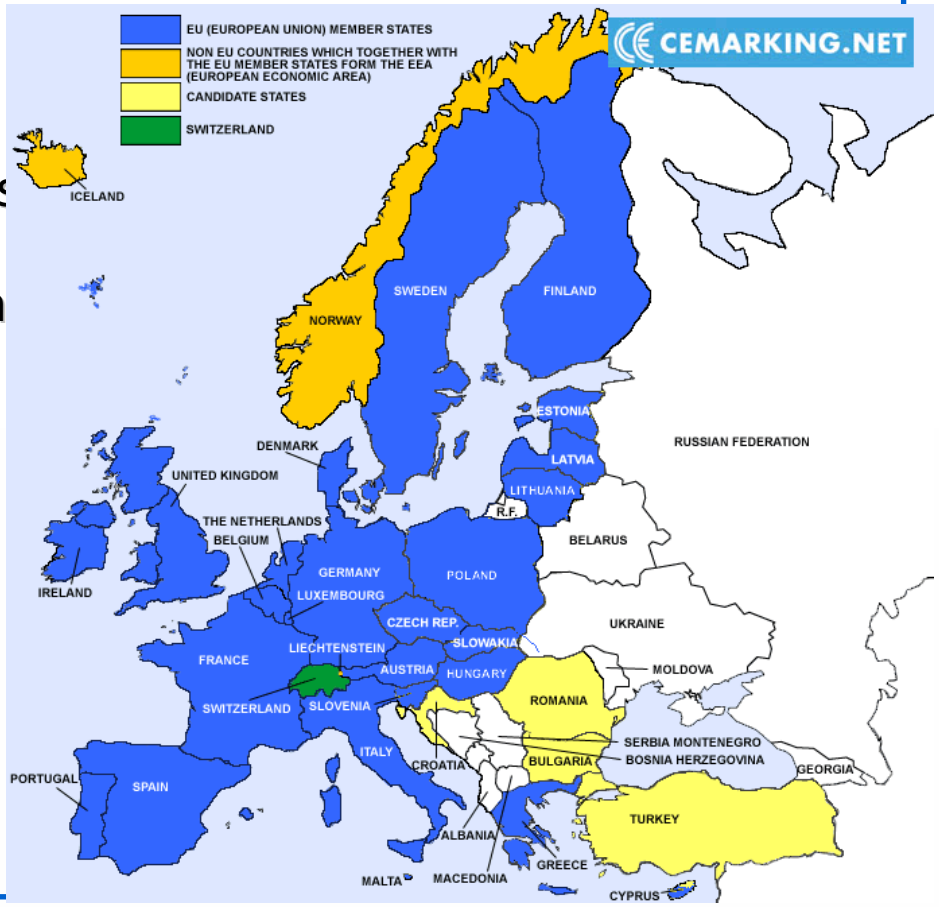
The method

- **Evaluation**
  - Evaluate the different environmental consequen
- **Documentation**
  - SEA is documented
- **Follow-up**
  - In what way should the actual result be followed u



Transboundary consultations

Where a plan / programme is likely to have significant environmental effects within another EU State, a copy of the plan and environmental report shall be sent to that State.



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

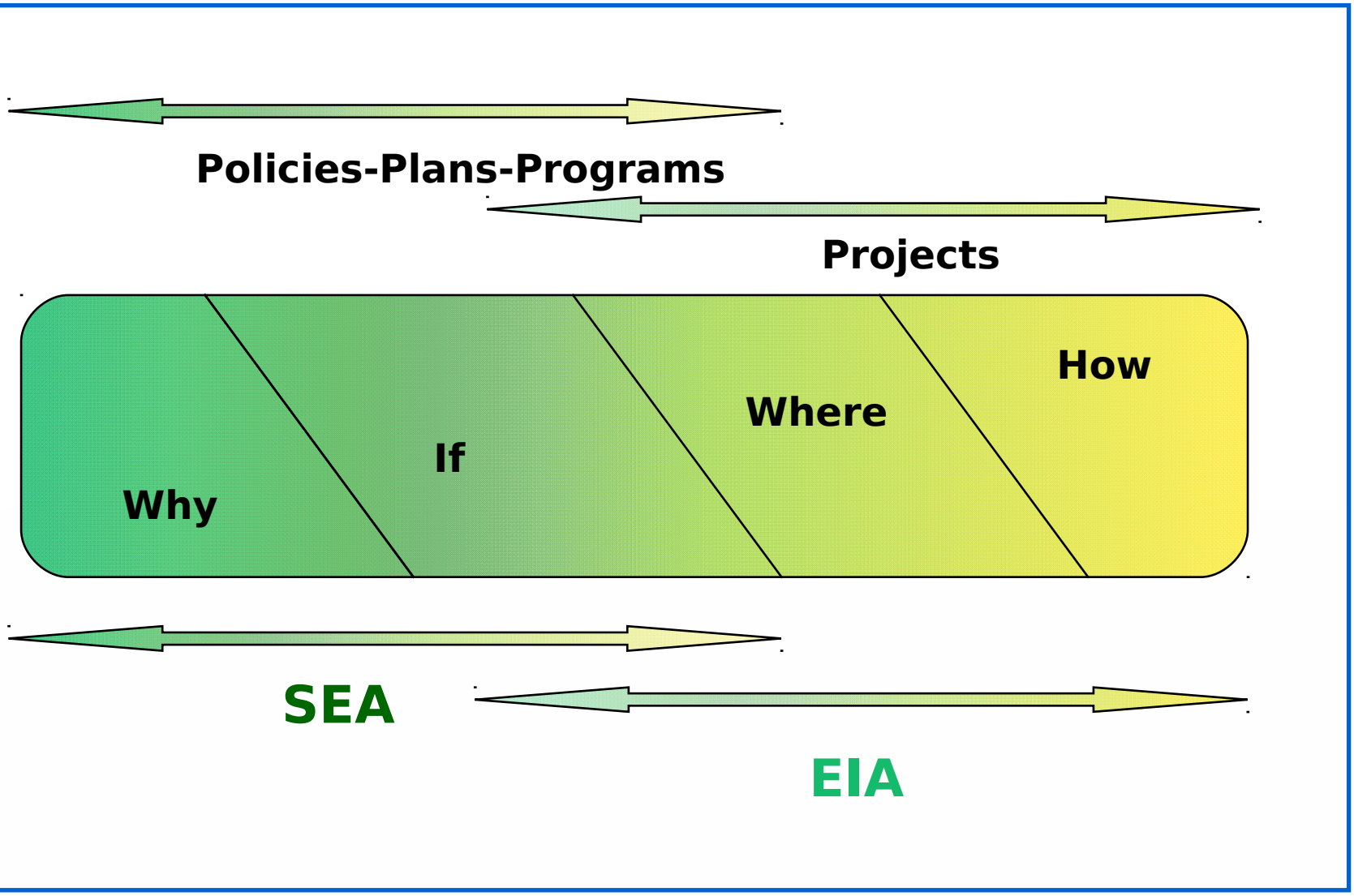
“The process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of development proposals or projects prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made.” (www.unesco.org)

Why EIA?

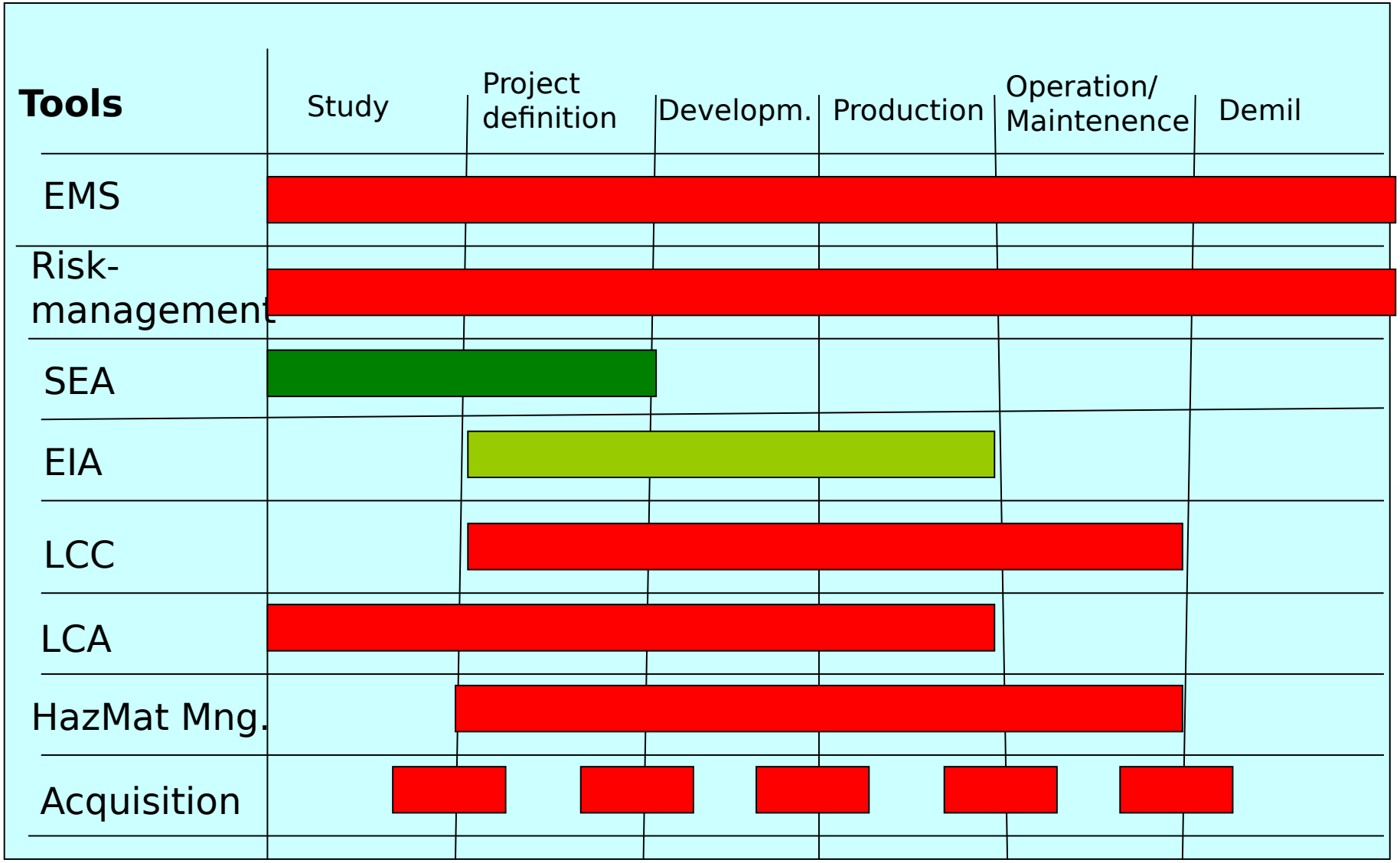
• The EIA process evaluates the likely significant environmental effects of a project on the environment and examines mitigation measures to remove or reduce these effects.

•The purpose of environmental impact assessment is to ensure that the environmental effects of a proposed project are fully considered before it is implemented.

• EIA assist in deciding whether a project should or should not go ahead. Where it does go ahead, the EIA will assist in drafting conditions and reduce environmental impact.


Policies-Plans-Programs
Projects
Why
If
Where
How
SEA
EIA

The materiel supply process



The use of SEA and EIA in Sweden

- **SEA is used to show the possible environmental effects from an overall decision**
  - Parliament decisions on the Armed Forces transition
- **EIA is used in projects or decisions**
  - Environmental permit process for training and testing
  - Materiel projects (new systems)

Summary

- **SEA is a useful tool to integrate environmental questions early in the process and make them a part of the basis that should be decided upon**
- **To use SEA is to avoid or minimize future environmental risks!**
- **SEA will save money in the life-cycle!**
- **To use SEA is the first step in the process of Pollution Prevention!**